

General Definitions:

1. A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea
Ex. Caesar, ianua (door), Roma, virtus (courage)
2. Nouns are the backbone of sentences in language.
• They are the grammatical tools that build and complete the action
3. Nouns play specific roles in language that help convey meaning
i.e. Almost no verb (action) can exist without a noun.
• The two major functions of nouns are The Subject and Direct Object of a verb.
• The Subject: Tells us who/what is doing the action (verbing)
• The Direct Object: Tells us who/what is being (verb)ed

Ex. The man drove The car
subject verb direct object

- The Subject: answers the question of "who is driving the car?" (the man)
- The Direct Object: answers the question of "who/what is being driven?" (the car)

Syntax

1. Syntax is the manipulation of nouns in a sentence to create sense (understanding).
i.e. It tells us how to change nouns to show their function / to understand a sentence.
• In English
2. We show meaning by word order: the placement of a noun will show its function.
→ when you change word order, you change meaning.

Ex. The man drove The car → The car drove The man
1 subject 2 verb 3 Direct object 3 subject 2 verb 1 direct object

Basic English Word Order: Subject Verb Direct Object

• In Latin

3. Latin shows meaning by using case-endings. There is no word order in Latin.
4. The ending of a noun tells us its function, not where it goes in the sentence.
5. A case-ending is the letter(s) at the end of a noun in Latin

Ex. Scintilla filiam laudat

filiam Scintilla laudat